

NEWS RELEASE

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Springfield Woman Charged with Credit Card Scheme

Springfield, IL— Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced today that a federal grand jury returned an indictment charging Delores Mackey, age 38, with wire and mail fraud related to her role in a credit card scheme in Springfield in mid-2001.

The indictment alleges that from about May 17, 2001 to June 3, 2001, Mackey completed and submitted college credit card applications containing false information to Bank of America's website. In May 2001, Bank of America began offering credit cards with a credit limit of \$2,000 to college students. The bank did not require applicants to show a credit history and applications could be made using an Internet website set up by Bank of America.

Mackey allegedly used the college credit cards she fraudulently received from Bank of America to purchase goods and services. On two occasions the indictment alleges Mackey showed others how to access the website and provide false information to apply for credit cards. As a result, the indictment alleges those who were present with her, three individuals on May 17, 2001, and at least four on May 30, 2001, applied for approximately 151 credit cards using Bank of America's website.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patricia A. McInerney.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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If convicted, each count of wire fraud charged (four) and mail fraud (three) carries a maximum statutory penalty of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Mackey is currently in federal custody on an unrelated charge.

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